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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR (Ukrainian, Kazakh, Kirgiz SSR)/ Austria	REPORT	
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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Comment: "Bendera" at bottom of page 2 is correctly "Bandera".

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25 YEAR
RE-REVIEW

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USAF review
completed.

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REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Ukrainian, Kazakh, Kirgiz SSRs)/Austria

DATE DISTR. 16 July 1954

SUBJECT 1. Wartime Evasion and Escape
Possibilities in the USSR
2. Soviet Military and Civilian Morale

NO. OF PAGES 4

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1. Evasion and Escape:

a. [redacted] the degree of success in eluding the MVD would be largely determined by the individual's knowledge of the Russian language and comprehension of USSR geography. Under wartime conditions, during mass population movements, someone having a fair grasp of the Russian language, or knowledge of some other language spoken in the Soviet Union, could possibly forestall detection by posing as a non-Russian Soviet national. Even so, [redacted] it would only be a matter of time before the evader was caught - unless he received outside help.

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[redacted] one could find many willing friends among the worker and peasant classes if circumstances were such as to permit them to give assistance without jeopardizing their own welfare.

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b. Should circumstances compel an evader to retreat into the hinterland [redacted] past Soviet policies of displacing whole populations during emergency situations [redacted] following routes to civilian evacuation areas where confusion

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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is generally prevalent and the probability of recognition is, consequently, less likely. On the question of procuring food, [redacted] approaching small isolated villages or small [redacted] knolkhozy where telephonic communications are usually non-existent -- no way to alert the MVD or spread an alarm. Bazaars, which exist in practically every Soviet town, also provide excellent means of bartering items for food. [redacted]

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During the past war, special MVD railroad guards ("oper-gruppy") checked all trains scrupulously for stowaways. Healthy looking, young men out of uniform are rare sights in rear areas during wartime and arouse immediate suspicion: [redacted]

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Another hint given was to not appear too tidy or clean. Most Russians are unkempt about their personal appearance and rarely wear neckties. Moreover, one should promptly shed all vestiges of distinctly "Western" clothes or parts of uniforms easily discernable as non-Russian. Typical Russian clothes should be acquired by hook or crook at the earliest opportunity. [redacted]

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[redacted] the easiest way to avoid arrest is to take advantage of the critical man-shortage in the Soviet Union and depend on a mistress to supply food and shelter. [redacted]

[redacted] this could be done relatively easily and provided a realistic solution to a desperate situation. Should circumstances compel one to surrender [redacted] giving one's self up to a rear echelon officer (any officer away from the immediate front). Combat troops might not find the patience to "fool around" with a prisoner-of-war and decide to expedite the solution with a pistol shot.

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c. [redacted] importance of compasses and topographic maps which are "extremely difficult to get in the Soviet Union." As to other items of great value [redacted] bringing watches, gold (coins or jewelry), and large amounts of rubles. Russians can be bribed. Such items are very marketable and can be exchanged for whatever services one may demand, including false documents. Anything can be bought in the Soviet Union provided one knows where to buy it. The best place to purchase things are from the riffraff element. Every Soviet city has its riffraff ("Shpana") element which thrives on black-marketing and lawlessness, in spite of the government's efforts to liquidate this class of "speculators and hooligans." It's simple to recognize a Russian "spiv". He's very fond of gold teeth and considers it a mark of distinction to accumulate gold teeth. Some even gold crowned perfectly healthy teeth.

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2. Underground Movements in the USSR: [redacted] underground resistance groups still exist in the Western Ukraine (recently incorporated into the Soviet Union). In 1953 [redacted]

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[redacted] "organized banditry in Western Ukraine"

[redacted] the population was hostile to Soviets and sometimes ambushed and murdered soldiers. [redacted]

[redacted] "Western Ukrainians were not trusted at all by the Soviets."

[redacted] a platoon soldier of the 287th Rifle Regiment in the Soviet Zone of Austria, who was arrested and repatriated because he once made a politically shady reference to "Bendera". 1.

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3. Anti-Russian Populations: Certain displaced populations, such as the Checheno-Ingushi and Karachayevtsy, are traditionally anti-Russian and could be relied upon to support any liberator.

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many Checheno-Ingushi (3,000 exiled to Kalininskoye region, they harboured a deep hatred for the Russians for expelling them from their native Caucasian homelands. most of these people were resettled in Central Asia; over a thousand kholkhoz Checheno-Ingushi during the 1948 harvest season, near Akmolinak /N 51-10, E 71-307

one can immediately recognize Checheno-Ingushi by their tall 'barashki' (lamb's wool astrakhan-type of cap) and 'besmety' (cossack-type of caftan with traditional cartridge bands across the chest)".

4. Prostitution in the City of Chop /N 48-25, E 22-117: Chop is a bordertown between Hungary and the Soviet Union. "Nowhere", "in the Soviet Union is prostitution so open and widespread as in Chop. Women accost men in the streets, at the railroad station and in public cafes. Any woman in Chop can be bought for 20 rubles. Poverty is distressingly evident everywhere; old men and children beg Soviet soldiers for food and money; the population is in rags." Strict MVD customs and border controls existed at the Chop railroad station.

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5. Estimation of Soviet Morale:

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Mass desertions to the West can be considered a foregone conclusion providing the United States does not attempt to enslave the Russian people as Hitler tried to do. In that event, inflamed hatred and patriotism will make the Russian soldier fight to the bitter end." In the event of occupation of Russia by American troops peasants and workers should be appointed as local administrators. ("Russians will listen to their own.")

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the monarchistic movement completely anachronistic and out of step with contemporary Russians' political aims.

6.

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7. Psychological Deterrents to Soviets Who Contemplate Desertion: Following reasons - according to importance - why potential Soviet deserters hesitate to defect to the West:

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- a. Material comforts are generally better in the army than for the average man in the Soviet Union. a Senior Lieutenant, earned as much as a qualified engineer does in the Soviet Union.
- b. Patriotism.
- c. Personal safety. The average Soviet is fearful and uncertain of treatment by West; he knows that deserters have been returned to Soviet control in the past. Long anti-American political indoctrination has warped the Russian's thinking.

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[REDACTED] 25X1

- d. Uncertainty of the future. Many Soviet officers are career officers who have stayed on after the war. Most have no profession by which to make a living after they are released to the local economy. (Officers often referred to themselves as "educated bums".)

[REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED] 25X1

- e. Hostage system: This, of course, is uppermost in every potential deserter's mind. Fear of reprisal against relatives is the greatest argument against defection.

[REDACTED] 25X1

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